

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08532 221438Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
ERDA-05 SP-02 ACDA-07 NSC-05 SS-15 /059 W
-----036563 221446Z /43

P 221417Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0997
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL ANTWERP

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08532

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, BE, US
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP PORT VISIT

REF: STATE 167231

SUMMARY. WE RECOMMEND THAT REQUEST FOR BELGIAN GOVERNMENT
PERMISSION FOR NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINE TO VISIT
ZEEBRUGGE IN EARLY NOVEMBER BE SUBMITTED THROUGH NORMAL
CHANNELS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN 76 BRUSSELS 11154 (DTG 151424Z NOV 76) WE REPORTED
THAT THERE WERE TWO ELEMENTS TO A POSSIBLE USG REQUEST
FOR A NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP VISIT TO ZEEBRUGGE: THE
REACTION OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT OF THE
ZEEBRUGGE PORT AUTHORITY. AT THAT TIME WE COMMENTED
THAT OUR IN-HOUSE JUDGMENT WAS THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERN-
MENT WOULD ACCEPT THE VISIT (AFTER POSSIBLY LENGTHY
CONVERSATION), BUT THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE ZEEBRUGGE
PORT AUTHORITY WAS MORE PROBLEMATICAL.

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2. THE SITUATION IN REGARD TO THE MOST PROBABLE
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT REACTION HAS NOT CHANGED DESPITE
THE CHANGE IN COMPOSITION OF THAT GOVERNMENT. WE
CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT PERMISSION WOULD BE GIVEN
AFTER POSSIBLY LENGTHY CONSIDERATION.

3. THE SITUATION IN REGARD TO THE ZEEBRUGGE PORT AUTHORITY HAS EVOLVED. THERE IS A NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAYOR IN BRUGGE AND THE PORT AUTHORITY HAS, AS A RESULT, BEEN RESTRUCTURED. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CONSULATE GENERAL ANTWERP, WE BELIEVE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WOULD NOW BE MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO USG INITIATIVES AND USE OF THE PORT THAN THEY WERE IN THE PAST. ON THE BASIS OF ALL OUR SOUNDINGS, WE NOW BELIEVE THAT THE LOCAL OFFICIALS WOULD BE MORE WILLING TO CONTAIN ANY ADVERSE LOCAL REACTION FROM ANTI-MILITARY, ANTI-NUCLEAR POWER, PACIFIST, LEFTIST AND ECOLOGICAL GROUPS, IN ORDER TO FURTHER THEIR INTEREST IN HAVING THE PORT USED BY THE USG.

4. THERE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY APT TO BE SOME VOCAL OPPOSITION FROM THE GROUPS NOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH OPPOSITION WOULD BE DETERMINING IN DECIDING THE POSITION OF THE LOCAL PORT AUTHORITY.

5. ON BALANCE, WE SUGGEST THAT THE TIME IS RIPE TO ASK BELGIAN PERMISSION AND SUGGEST THAT IT BE DONE WITH (A) AS MUCH LEAD TIME AS POSSIBLE AND (B) WITH AS MUCH FLEXIBILITY AND INFORMATION AS CAN BE PROVIDED TO APPROPRIATE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES BY ALL CONCERNED ELEMENTS OF THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATE. CHAMBERS
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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